

KIDDERMINSTER

Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

1911.

KIDDERMINSTER :

PRINTED AT THE " SHUTTLE " PRESS, WORCESTER STREET,

MCMXII.

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Surveyor	-	G. J. SHEPHERD.
Sanitary Inspector	-	DANIEL LLEWELLYN.

Kidderminster Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year ended December 31st, 1911.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

The number of births registered in the district during the year is 202, and the birth rate 19·3.

The number of deaths registered is 119, and the death rate 11·4. This is slightly higher than it was last year, but considerably lower than the average for the past ten years, and compares favourably with the rate of other rural districts.

SICKNESS.

Eighty cases of Scarlet Fever have been notified, twenty-six from the Foreign, forty-three from Wolverley, two from Chaddesley, and nine from Arley and Wribbenhall. Of these fifty-three were removed to the Infectious Hospital. The disease has been of a mild type, as was the case last year, and no death has occurred from this cause among residents in the district, but many of the slight cases have been overlooked in the early stage, and so the infection has spread and continued. Seven cases of Diphtheria have been notified, two from the Foreign, four from Wolverley, and one from Chaddesley. This last case, which was removed to the Infirmary, because the operation for Tracheotomy was required, and which proved fatal, came from a house at which the drains were found choked, and a very offensive cesspool with deficient covering.

Four cases of Erysipelas have been notified, two from Wolverley and two from Chaddesley. One case of Enteric Fever, a very mild one, was notified from Wribbenhall. The house drains were choked and the cesspool full.

Five cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis have been notified, two from the Foreign, two from Wolverley, and one from Wribbenhall. One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum has been notified. There was an outbreak of Measles at Chaddesley in March, and again in December. A few cases of Chicken Pox occurred in Cookley at the latter end of August.

The Inspector, on receipt of notification from me of a case of Infectious Disease, visits the house and examines the surroundings, and, if the case is treated at home, gives instructions regarding isolation of the patient and precautions to be taken, and, after removal or recovery of the patient, disinfection is carried out in every case. Children from infected houses are prevented from attending school, and all such cases are reported to the head teacher. Where isolation is not practicable, the Inspector, on receipt of instruction from me, arranges the removal of cases to the Infectious Hospital. I have systematically visited the various portions of my district, and have, with the Inspector, made a house-to-house visitation of Hoobrook, Wribbenhall, and Habberley Road.

February 13th.—I called Inspector's attention to a cottage at the Sladd, where the privy and ashpit were dilapidated, the roof, vault, and woodwork falling to pieces, the drains were out of order, and the dumbwell uncovered.

March 7th.—I visited, with the Inspector, the New Inn public house, Pound Green. The closets and urinals were inadequate and unsuitable, the dumbwell too small, the overflow running into the ditch on the road side, and the surroundings of the well were unsatisfactory. A sample of water was sent for analysis, the closets and urinals re-built on the opposite side of the paddock, and a larger and deeper dumbwell provided.

June 28th.—I called Inspector's attention to a cottage at Astwood Bank, Chaddesley. The privy midden, built against the wall of the house, was foul, and the liquid contents percolating into the house, causing a most offensive smell. The well was only five yards from this midden, and evidently percolation was going on, for at the time of my visit the water smelt of sewage. The tenant stated that when the well was stirred up the water was most offensive, and that maggots were often found in it. They had had constant illness in the house for a considerable time. I warned the tenant on no account to use the water for cooking or drinking purposes, and requested the Inspector to take prompt steps to get these conditions rectified.

September 18th.—I called Inspector's attention to a polluted spring, from which the inmates (eight in number) of two cottages near the Shatterford Road, obtain their water supply, and requested him to deal with the matter. The fence round the spring is broken down, and the footmarks and dung of pigs and cattle are visible in the mud around the spring.

September 27th.—When enquiring in Wolverley concerning a case of Scarlet Fever, notified that morning, I heard that children in two houses, occupied by relatives of the child notified, had been

absent from school. I visited both these houses, and found, in each of them, two children suffering from Scarlet Fever. As these houses were in the middle of the village, and close to the schools, I had the children in question moved at once to the hospital.

November 11th.—I visited Webb's cottage, Bodenham, and found the closet built against the wall of the pantry, into which effluvium penetrates. The baking oven is built partly over the privy, and the heat from this makes the stench worse. The rain-water from the roof pours into the midden. The only drinking water supply is obtained from a spring, at some distance across the fields, and this is constantly fouled by cattle.

No case of anthrax has been reported.

On October 2nd I made, by direction of the Local Government Board, a Special Report concerning the Closing of the Wolverley Endowed School, on account of Diarrhœa. This report was sent through your Clerk, and a copy was forwarded to the County Medical Officer.

With regard to the water supply of the district, every house in the Whitville area has the town water laid on, and the supply is constant. In other parts of the district adjoining the Borough, a large proportion of the houses, more and more each year, are supplied from the same source. The other sources: wells, springs, etc., have been well looked after. Twenty-two samples of water have been submitted to the County Analyst, and nine of them were found unfit for drinking and domestic purposes. The wells from which six of them were taken were closed, and the town water laid on; the other three were rectified by thorough cleaning out of the wells. Eighty-five wells have been cleansed and repaired, and nineteen new wells sunk in the country portions of the district.

Very little pollution of streams goes on. In a few instances where it has been found, drains have been diverted from the stream, and a dumbwell provided. As regards drainage, all the houses in the Whitville area are now connected with the main sewers, and I hope that if the Commissioner who held the enquiry recommends the extension of the Borough boundaries, we shall soon be better able to deal with insanitary conditions constantly arising, more particularly in the Sutton Common area.

Your Inspector's report, to be printed with this, gives full particulars concerning the privy, water closet, and other closet accommodation. With regard to the disposal of excrement and house refuse, except in Wribbenhall, where scavenging is done by men under the direction of your Inspector, which system on the whole works very well, the inhabitants dispose of excrement and refuse on their gardens or allotments.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

Six hundred and thirty-two premises have been visited, a large proportion of these by the Inspector and myself together, and 2,826 defects and nuisances discovered and reported upon ; a large proportion of these were rectified, after verbal instructions were given, but seventy-eight are still on the books. One hundred and twenty-two informal notices have been served, and two statutory notices. Instructions were given for six additional statutory notices, but before they were served the informal notice was complied with. One hundred and thirteen of these notices have been complied with, and in the remaining cases the work is in progress.

We have no bye-laws controlling premises or occupations, and no lodging houses or cellar dwellings. The only offensive trade is that carried on by the horse slaughterer in Oldington Wood. The premises there have been constantly looked after, by the Inspector and myself, and have been found well ordered and sanitary.

The Water Supply at the Schools has been very satisfactory, and also the general sanitary conditions. At Wribbenhall C.E. Schools new drains and gullies have been put in ; and the drains have been re-laid at Seabright's Endowed Schools, Wolverley. At Broadwaters School the supply for drinking is now obtained direct from the mains, instead of from a tank.

A new school room has been built at Cookley, increasing the accommodation, and with all modern sanitary arrangements adjoining. Medical inspection of the children is carried out by the assistants of the County School Medical Officer. The condition of the road adjoining the Foley Park Schools, to which I have referred for several years past, is in the same horrible condition. In damp weather the children have to wade through six or eight inches of black mud when crossing the road to the school gates.

The Dairies, Milk-shops, and Cow-sheds have been regularly looked after, and have been well kept. The milk supply has been good, and sufficient in quantity, and there has been no indication of adulteration or contamination, nor of tuberculous infection.

The slaughter-houses have been regularly and frequently visited, both during slaughtering and other times. Their condition has been found, on the whole, very satisfactory. No meat has been found affected with tuberculous or other disease. All food and fish shops have been regularly inspected, and also their surroundings. Hawkers of fruit and vegetables are looked after, especially in the summer.

The Bakehouses have been regularly visited, and with one exception, referred to by the Inspector in his report, they have been found clean and sanitary.

The Factories have been visited by me, including the new one in Foley Park, and their sanitary arrangements are satisfactory.

The Sale of Food and Drugs Acts are administered by the County Police. I am informed that legal action has only been required in one case of adulterated spirits.

The following schools have been closed during the year : Chaddesley, March 7th to 27th, on account of Measles ; Wolverley Endowed, September 18th to 25th, for Diarrhœa,—October 1st to 15th, for Scarlet Fever,—November 14th to 27th, for Scarlet Fever ; Broadwaters Infants, December 7th to 21st, for Scarlet Fever ; Chaddesley Corbett, December 12th to 22nd, for Measles. The school rooms have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before re-opening.

Over-crowding has been dealt with in twenty-nine cases ; of these thirteen were abated upon receipt of verbal notice at the time of inspection ; in the other sixteen cases written notices were served, and in one of these, after a statutory notice, a summons was served upon the offenders, before the nuisance was abated.

The Housing accommodation for artisans and labourers in the district is, I think, adequate, and the open spaces around the houses, as a rule, sufficient. Cleanliness of the surroundings is looked after by the Inspector and myself.

Fourteen new houses have been erected under the supervision of your Surveyor ; eleven have been condemned and closed ; and two have been demolished. No closing orders were applied for or issued, the closing being effected by agreement with the owners.

As regards the general character of the defects discovered during house inspection, I would specify defective flooring, paving, and plastering, dilapidated staircases, defective roofs, eaves-gutters, drains, privies, and ashpits, defective light and ventilation, and insanitary surroundings of wells, etc., etc.

We have no special local Acts or general adoptive Acts in force in the district, and no chemical or bacteriological work has been required.

The cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis have been visited by myself and by the Inspector. The family arrangements, condition of house generally, sleeping accommodation, light and ventilation, and sanitary surroundings, have been enquired into, advice and instruction given regarding necessary precautions, and a leaflet and disinfectants supplied. Where death has occurred, thorough

cleansing and disinfection of premises, bedding, etc., has been directed, and, in case of removal, the house left has been thoroughly attended to. Also, enquiries have been made with a view to the detection of earlier unrecognised cases in association with the notified cases, but we have no Sanatorium or Hospital accommodation available for these cases.

The administration of the Midwives Act, and of the Notification of Births Act, is looked after by the County Medical Officer.

In conclusion, I beg to state that the district is on the whole, and has been during the year, in a good sanitary condition.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. H. ADDENBROOKE.

TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1911 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett,		Number	Rate.*	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages,	
			Number.	Rate,*					Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1906	10100	245	245	24·25	118	11·68	—	11	20	81·6	129	12·7
1907	10100	225	225	22·27	128	12·6	—	17	18	80·	145	14·35
1908	10100	242	242	23·96	127	12·5	2	16	19	78·1	141	13·9
1909	10100	213	213	21·1	135	13·36	4	19	23	108·9	150	14·8
1910	10100	202	202	20·	108	10·7	1	21	19	94·05	128	12·57
1911	10495	202	202	19·3	119	11·4	5	16	18	89·1	130	12·4

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 32,935.

Total population at all ages at Census of 1911, 10,495; Number of inhabited houses, 2,488; Average number of persons per house, 4·21. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District—Kidderminster Borough Infectious Hospital.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Kidderminster Union Workhouse, Kidderminster Infirmary and Children's Hospital.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District? No.

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT

TABLE II.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1911.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				Total Cases Removed to Hospital.	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Kidderminster Foreign.	Wolverley.	Chaddesley Corbett.	Arley and Wribbenhall.		
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65						
													65 and up'wds
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup ..	7	..	..	5	1	1	..	..	4	1	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	8	..	..	1	..	3	2	..	2	2	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	80	2	10	52	9	6	1	..	43	2	9	..	53
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Relapsing Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis { 1908 Regulations	5	..	..	..	..	4	1	..	2	..	1	..	..
1911 Regulations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	102	3	10	58	10	15	4	35	51	5	11	53	53

H.—Kidderminster Borough Infectious Hospital, Stourport Road, Kidderminster. Total available beds 80 (60 under ordinary circumstances). Number of diseases that can be concurrently treated 2.

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT:

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1911.

[illegible]

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT.

TABLE IV.—INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1911.

Deaths from stated causes at various ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes.	{ Certified ..	5	..	3	1	9	4	3	1	1	18
	{ Uncertified ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	1	5
Enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Congenital Malformations	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Premature Birth ...	..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	3
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	..	1	..	2	..	3	1	..	..	..	4
Injury at Birth	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rickets ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gastritis	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Laryngitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Other Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	..	5	..	3	1	9	4	3	1	1	18

Births in the year—legitimate 200; illegitimate, 2.

Deaths in the year of—legitimate infants, 18; illegitimate infants, 0.

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORK- PLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1-INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF		
	INSPECTIONS.	WRITTEN NOTICES.	PROSECUTIONS.
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries)	42	2	None
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	122	14	"
WORKPLACES	61	2	"
TOTAL	225	18	None

2-DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.			NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS.
	FOUND	REMEDIED	REFERRED TO H.M. INSPECTOR.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	16	16	..	..
Want of Ventilation	4	4	..	..
Want of Drainage of Floors	4	4	..	..
Other Nuisances	30	30	..	..
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient .. .. .	..	..	..	..
{ unsuitable or defective	1	1	..	..
{ not separate for sexes .. .. .	..	..	..	..
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses	2	2	..	..
TOTAL	57	57	None	None

3-HOME WORK.

No cases of homeworkers have come under notice, and no list of outworkers has been sent in from any employers in the district.

4-REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year: Bakers, 14; Blacksmiths, 15; Builders, 5; Boat Builders, 1; Boot and Shoe Makers, 7; Carpenters, 8; Cabinet Makers, 2; Coffin Makers, 2; Coal Merchants, 4; Confectioners, 1; Cycle Makers, 1; Dressmakers, 11; Jewellers, 2; Joiners, 2; Laundresses, 6; Milliners, 4; Painters, 3; Plumbers, 3; Photographers, 2; Saddlers, 1; Stone Masons, 3; Tailors and Drapers, 3; Wheelwrights, 4.—
Total, 104.

5-OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act, 0; Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act—Notified by H.M. Inspector 2, Reports (of action taken) sent to H. M. Inspector 2.

No underground bakehouses.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

KIDDERMINSTER,

JANUARY, 1912.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Kidderminster Rural District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my third annual report of the sanitary and other work carried out in my department during the year ending December 31st, 1911.

I desire to thank you for the courtesy which has been shown to me, and for the attention you have paid to my requirements during the year.

I also beg to acknowledge the courtesy and kindness received from my fellow officials.

NUISANCES.

The total number of nuisances or infringements under the various Acts found and reported upon during the year amounted to 2,826, of which 2,748 have been remedied, leaving 78 remaining on the books at the end of the year. These nuisances relate to property in Cookley, Wolverley, Wribbenhall, Dowles, and Kidderminster Foreign, and I am pleased to report that in most cases the necessary works have been put in hand, and are progressing satisfactorily.

NOTICES FOR ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

During the year 124 written notices were served for the abatement of nuisances. Of these 122 were preliminary, and 2 Statutory notices.

As will be seen, the service of authorised notices were very small in number, only two being served during the year. Instructions were given to serve Statutory notices in eight instances, but before they were served the necessary work had been commenced.

The preliminary notices are served forthwith on the discovery of a nuisance, without waiting for a meeting of the Council, whose authority is necessary before any legal proceedings can be taken for the abatement of nuisances. Generally, the service of these notices have the desired effect ; but where these fail, the nuisances are reported at your monthly meetings, and the necessary authority obtained for formal notices to be served and magisterial proceedings to be taken to enforce compliance with same in default.

COMPLAINTS.

The complaints register shows that 42 complaints of various matters were received during the year, as compared with 51 in 1910. All these were investigated, and action taken where required. Of these 42 complaints, nine were made verbally at this office, 21 were written and properly authenticated, and 12 were anonymous communications.

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION—(HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909).

In accordance with the requirements of the above Act and Regulations, sub-section 1 of section 17, a systematic inspection of dwelling houses has been carried out, the number of houses examined during the year being 632.

The districts inspected were Hoobrook, Wolverley, Habberley, Dowles, and Wribbenhall, the work being done in the company of the Medical Officer of Health.

The nuisances discovered during the routine inspection were of a varied nature. Many were of such a character as to require no constructional alteration to procure abatement, or to require the service of a notice ; in many instances verbal intimations to the persons responsible being sufficient. In other cases preliminary notices were required to be served before abatement could be procured.

There have been 14 new houses erected during the year ; 632 inspected, ; 11 condemned and closed ; and two demolished. No closing orders were issued under the above Act, the closing of houses being effected by mutual agreement with the owners.

A large number of the houses inspected have had repairs carried out, such as drainage, defective roofs, eaves-gutters, privies, light and ventilation, etc.

Inspections have been made for the supervision of works in progress, and consultations have taken place, no less than 315 visits being made with builders, owners, agents, etc., concerning work required to be done to abate nuisances, and visits or calls respecting complaints.

A list of the nuisances dealt with is subjoined.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889, AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE (PREVENTION) ACT, 1890.

One hundred and two cases of infectious disease were reported to the Medical Officer of Health during the year, compared with 92 for the year 1910.

These consisted of 80 cases of scarlet fever, 7 diphtheria, 8 erysipelas, 1 enteric fever, 1 ophthalmia Neonatorum, and 5 of pulmonary phthisis. Of the scarlet fever cases, 53 were removed to the Borough Hospital, compared with 42 removed in 1910.

Every house in which a case of infectious disease occurred was visited, and enquiries made with a view of tracing the origin of the disease; the premises were thoroughly examined, and instructions left as to the precaution to be taken in order to check the spread of infection. Where patients were not removed to the hospital, but were treated at their own homes, frequent visits were paid, in order to ensure that the necessary precautions were being carried out. Disinfectants were supplied where necessary.

No children from infected houses were permitted to attend school, and all cases were reported to the head teachers forthwith. After removal or recovery of the patients, the infected bedding, clothing, etc., were disinfected on the premises, and the rooms fumigated.

The houses where deaths from phthisis or consumption occurred were visited, and disinfection of the premises and of the clothing carried out.

In one case, in Wribbenhall, it was found necessary to destroy the infected bedding, for which compensation was paid by the Council.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

The following schools were closed and disinfected on account of infectious disease existing among the scholars :

School.	Disease.	Closed.		Disinfected.
		From	To	
Chaddesley Corbett (Endowed) ..	Measles	Mar. 7th	Mar. 27th	Mar. 24th
Wolverley (Mixed and Infants) ..	Diarrhoea	Sept. 18th	Sept. 25th	Sept. 23rd
Wolverley (Mixed and Infants) ...	Scarlet Fever	Oct. 2nd	Oct. 15th	Oct. 9th
Wolverley (Mixed and Infants) ..	Scarlet Fever	Nov. 14th	Nov. 27th	Nov. 22nd
Wolverley—Broadwaters—(Infants)	Scarlet Fever	Dec. 7th	Dec. 22nd	Dec. 14th
Chaddesley Corbett (Endowed) ..	Measles	Dec. 12th	Dec. 22nd	Dec. 14th

The schools mentioned were visited on several occasions before closure, and the effect of the outbreak noted at each visit. No less than sixty visits have been made to the schools during the year, and a large number of sanitary improvements have been carried out in several of them.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDER, 1885.

Two hundred and thirty-nine visits of inspection were made to the above during the past twelve months, and there are now 103 on the register. One new cowshed has been erected.

Fifteen more cowkeepers and milksellers have been added to the register during the year, making up the total of registered to 103.

The cleansing and lime-washing of the dairies, cowsheds and milkshops have been carried out in accordance with the regulations.

Number of Cowkeepers on Register	69
Number of Purveyors of Milk on Register ...	19
Number of Cowkeepers, Dairymen and Purveyors of Milk registered during the year	15
Total	103

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1878—1894.

No cases of anthrax or any disease under the above Acts have occurred in the district during the year.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Eighty visits of inspection were made to slaughter-houses, mostly at the time of killing. No diseased meat has been met with, and I am quite of the opinion that the general quality of the meat supplied in your district is good.

These places were found to be in a satisfactory condition respecting cleanliness.

No less than 154 visits were made to the food and fish shops in the district.

Your Council granted the renewal of license for horse slaughtering at Oldington Wood. These premises have been regularly visited, and on each occasion found to be in a most satisfactory condition.

BAKEHOUSES.

In all, 98 visits have been made to bakehouses and confectioners' shops. The general condition of the bakehouses may be said to be very good. In all instances, the walls, etc., were cleansed and limewashed.

In the early part of the year, it was found necessary to report on the condition of one bakehouse in Foley Park. This place was found in a very unsatisfactory condition, the floors, walls, and ceilings being very dirty. There was also a fowl-house within 10 feet of the bakehouse door, in which were 36 fowls. These were allowed to run over the yard, in the bakehouse, and in the flour room above. A notice was served on the owner requesting him to abate the nuisance, by cleaning and washing the floors, limewashing walls and ceilings of bakehouse, and by removing the fowl-pen from its position near the bakehouse. This was complied with, and the premises are now kept in a far better and cleaner condition than was formerly the case.

OVERCROWDING.

Reports of 29 houses which appeared to be overcrowded, were submitted to the Medical Officer of Health during the year, and in 16 cases notices were served to reduce the number of inmates. Each notice was complied with. The other 13 cases were abated upon receipt of verbal notice being given to the occupiers on the day on which the inspection was made. Almost every case was discovered during the ordinary course of house-to-house inspection.

One serious case of overcrowding was met with in the parish of Chaddeley Corbett, and great difficulty was experienced in dealing with it.

This was a case where two families lived in the same house, which had but one living room and two small bedrooms. A preliminary notice was served on the offenders, but as it was not complied with, the matter was reported to your Council, and instructions were given to serve a statutory notice. Your instructions were duly carried out, and the owners were summoned for non-compliance with same, and the Magistrates, after hearing the case, issued an order for the abatement of the nuisance within 28 days. Before this time had elapsed, the owner had had plans passed by your Surveyor for the provision of additional bedroom accommodation, which brought the property into conformity with the requirements of the Council. This work has now been completed.

WATER.

There were 22 samples of water chemically analysed during the year, 9 of which were certified to be unfit for drinking purposes. Upon service of notice, 6 wells were closed and a supply of tap water laid on, while the others were dealt with by thoroughly

cleaning out the well. No less than 85 wells have been cleansed and repaired, and the source of pollution removed, where the water was of a suspicious quality. Eighty-eight houses were supplied from the Waterworks, the largest number of them being in the Whitville area, in which area practically every house is connected to the water mains.

There were 19 new wells sunk in the rural parts, and these, added to the 30 wells sunk in the year 1910, have improved the water supply of the district very considerably.

No outbreak of infectious disease has been traced to water in the district.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

There have been 39 visits made to the factories in the district, special regard being paid to the question of closet accommodation.

A new factory has been erected at Foley Park during the year, at which some 82 persons are employed.

The work done in connection with the factories and workshops is set out in tabular form. The official tables are used for this purpose, and the particulars are compiled by the Medical Officer of Health.

WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

No less than 183 visits have been made to these places, and a number of structural alterations connected with ventilation, cleansing and limewashing, drainage, effluvia, etc., carried through.

No legal proceedings have been requisite, further than the service of an occasional notice.

Eight more workshops have been added to the register during the year, and the following is a list of the workshops now in the district :—

Bakers	14	Joiners	2
Blacksmiths	15	Laundries	6
Boot and Shoe Makers ..	7	Milliners	4
Boat Builders	1	Painters	3
Builders	5	Plumbers	3
Cabinet Makers	2	Photographers	2
Carpenters	8	Saddlers	1
Coal Merchants	4	Stonemasons	3
Coffin Makers	2	Tailors and Drapers ..	3
Confectioners	1	Wheelwrights	4
Cycle Makers	1		
Dressmakers	11	Total	104
Jewellers	2		

No cases of home-workers have come under my notice, and no list has been sent in of out-workers from any employers in the district.

CANAL BOATS.

During the year, 56 visits were made to the wharves, etc., to examine boats while passing along canals in this district.

Contraventions were found in 29 cases, particulars of which will be found below :—

Boats inspected	..	..	..	223
Boats contravening the Acts or Regulations	..	..	..	29
Persons for which the Cabins were registered	..	..	..	683
Persons occupying the Cabins	..	..	..	518
Men on the Boats	..	..	..	459
Women on the Boats	..	..	..	39
Children on the Boats (between the ages 5 and 12)	..	..	..	13
Children on the Boats (under 5 years of age)	..	..	..	7
<i>Details of Contraventions :</i>				
Not carrying Certificate of Registration	..	..	..	3
Boats not properly marked	..	..	..	1
Boats overcrowded	...	..	..	4
Dirty Cabins	..	..	..	15
Painting requiring renewal	..	..	..	3
Want of proper vessels for drinking water	..	..	..	3
TOTAL	..	..	..	29

Instead of the usual complaint notes being issued in cases of contraventions, letters were sent asking the owners and masters of boats to attend to the matters complained of, and this method of dealing with them has had a much better effect. All contraventions were complied with at the end of the year.

No case of Infectious Disease has been met with upon any of the boats, nor has any such case been notified as occurring amongst the occupants.

The cabins of the boats plying in this district were, on the whole, found to be kept in a fairly satisfactory condition.

H.M. Inspector of Canal Boats, O. J. Llewellyn, Esq., paid his annual visit on June 7th, and expressed his satisfaction with the manner in which the work had been carried out during the year.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

One new license was granted during the year for the storage of petroleum under the above Acts. There are now 9 persons in the district licensed to sell or store petroleum, petrol (or motor spirit), benzoline, carbide of calcium, etc. Periodical visits have been paid to the different premises during the year, but no infringements of the Acts or Regulations were discovered, and your requirements, and those of the Petroleum Acts, have been duly carried out.

Infectious Disease :					
Cases enquired into	..	..	..	...	102
Visits made thereto	..	..	..	..	129
Patients removed to hospital	..	..	..	..	53
Houses disinfected	..	..	..	..	114
Visits to schools	..	..	..	..	66
Articles of clothing disinfected	...	..	..	..	350
Articles destroyed	..	..	..	..	57
Houses :					
Inspected (house-to-house)	..	..	..	..	632
Inspected on complaint	..	..	..	..	42
Cleansed and limewashed	..	..	..	..	370
Repaired	..	..	..	..	254
Defective yards paved	..	..	..	..	258
Houses closed	..	..	..	..	11
Sinks :					
Number of quarry sinks abolished	..	..	..	..	112
Number of glazed earthenware sinks provided	..	..	..	..	134
House Drains :					
Tested with smoke, or chemicals, or both	..	..	..	..	248
Found defective	..	..	..	..	130
Laid or re-laid	..	..	..	..	247
Cleansed, trapped, or ventilated	..	..	..	..	232
Defective wastes rectified	..	..	..	..	29
Insanitary lavatories, etc., rectified	..	..	..	..	69
Dumbwells constructed	..	..	..	..	90
Dumbwells rectified	..	..	..	..	135
Overcrowding :					
Cases abated	..	..	..	..	29
Courts and Terraces :					
Visits made thereto	..	...	..	..	91
Water Closets :					
Additional provided	..	..	..	..	27
Repaired and ventilated	..	..	..	...	182
Supplied with flushing apparatus	..	..	..	..	57
Cleansed and limewashed	..	..	..	..	288
Privies and Ashpits :					
Additional provided	..	...	..	..	25
Repaired and ventilated	..	..	..	..	159
Reconstructed	..	..	..	..	63
Cleansed and limewashed	...	..	..	..	129
Privy pans provided	...	..	..	..	21
Converted to water closets	..	..	..	..	74
Converted to pail closets	..	..	..	..	83
Dustbins (Portable) :					
New provided	..	..	..	..	86
Water Supply :					
Samples taken	..	...	..	..	22
Closed as polluted	..	..	..	..	6
New wells sunk	..	..	...	..	19
Wells cleansed and repaired	..	..	..	..	85
Houses supplied from waterworks	..	..	..	..	88
Slaughter-Houses :					
Inspections made	..	..	..	..	80
Contraventions remedied	..	..	..	..	27
Bakehouses :					
Inspections made	..	..	..	..	98
Contraventions remedied	..	..	..	..	38

Workshops :

On register	104
Inspections made	183
Contraventions remedied	67
Insanitary conditions dealt with as nuisances	16

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops :

Registered	15
Inspections made	239
Contraventions remedied	88

Canal Boats :

Inspections made	56
Boats inspected	223
Contraventions remedied	29

Nuisances from Keeping of Animals :

Number abated	84
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Accumulation of Offensive Refuse :

Number removed	189
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Food and Fish Shops :

Number inspected	154
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Meetings of Owners and Agents :

Re Work to be done	315
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Moveable Dwellings, Caravans, etc :

Number observed	12
Dealt with as insanitary	2
Removed	4

Clerical work :

Letters written	738
Notices served	122
Statutory notices served... ..	2
Statutory notices complied with	2

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DANIEL LLEWELLYN.

